



NOTES FROM GENERAL PRACTICE.

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I. COCAINE-SPRAY IN EPISTAXIS, AND IN NASAL SURGERY GENERALLY.

I. A., aged 20, suffering from a severe attack of typhoid, was troubled by frequent epistaxis. The attacks were invariably relieved by throwing into the nostrils, for a few moments, spray from a two per cent. solution of cocaine. On one occasion, copious bleeding was allowed to persist for three hours, when the spray checked it immediately. Until the patient convalesced, the spray was needed almost daily, and frequently several times a day, but the nurse never allowed more than a few drops of blood to be lost.

Four per cent. solutions of cocaine, applied freely as a spray, are efficient in preventing pain from slighter manipulations, such as the removal of gelatinous polypi. Before more severe operations, in addition to the use of a four per cent. solution by the spray, a ten per cent. solution should be accurately applied on one or more pledgets of absorbent cotton to all surfaces about to be treated, and kept in position for ten minutes. Where this is impossible, a ten per cent. spray may be used, placing the tip of the atomizer as near the seat of the disease as may be. With these precautions, I have made an incision through the whole length of the cartilaginous septum, and transfixed with Roberts' pin, the patient declaring the procedure to be painless. Operations under cocaine are attended with but little hemorrhage, thus contrasting remarkably with those performed under ether-anæsthesia.

The facility with which some of the more remote portions of the nasal cavities may be examined and treated, after the complete shrinkage of the erectile tissues produced by cocaine, needs but to be mentioned here.

*Cocaine is as essential to a thorough examination of the nose as a mydriatic to that of the eye.*

The spray, from the rapidity and diffuseness of its action, is undoubtedly the best method of applying the drug, for this and for many other purposes.

An atomizer made by the Davol Company ("Magic, No. 25") I have found very useful in operations upon the pharynx and nasal passages.



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